

testicle. I take the opportunity of acknowledging the assistance afforded me in my dissection by Dr. Leidy's beautiful monograph on the Gasteropoda.

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MAY 19.

Dr. KENDERDINE in the chair.

Twenty-five members present.

*The Veins of Beech and Hornbeam Leaves.*—Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN said that De Candolle had noticed some years since a difference in the venation between the *Fagus ferruginea* and *Fagus sylvatica*, the common American and European beeches. In the American beech the lateral veins were said to terminate in the apex of the serratures—in the European they terminate at the base of the sinus. He had not read the original paper of De Candolle, but abstracts in the scientific serials. As the statement stood, it conveyed the idea that there was a marked difference in structure between these two allied species which did not, however, exist, as growing in this country the leaves of the European beech are almost entire; the lateral veins, in approaching the margin of the leaves, curve upwards, and connect with the lateral above them, forming a sort of marginal vein near the outer edge of the leaf. The veins of the American beech curve upward in the same way, but are early arrested, and this sudden cessation of growth produces the serra, which are slightly curved upwards. An early arrestation of growth in the veins makes the serratures, and constitutes the only difference between the two species. The structural plan is the same in both—the European, curving its lateral vein into the apex, reached the upper one—the American terminating abruptly.

There was a greater tendency to marginal development in some European than in allied American species. In the *Carpinus Betulus*, the English Hornbeam, there were from four to five teeth between each pair of lateral nerves, while there were but from two to three between those of the American—*Carpinus Americana*—a character that was quite as distinctive between these two very closely allied species, as the viens were in the case of the beech.

*Direct Growth Force.*—Mr. MEEHAN referred to some potatoes exhibited by him to the Academy a few years ago, in which the stolons of a grass had penetrated through from one side to the other, preferring, as it would seem, to go through such an obstruction to turning aside to avoid it. A potato was a rather rough surfaced body. He now exhibited a similar case, only the obstruction was the round smooth root of an herbaceous peony. Though not more than one-third of an inch thick and round, a

stolon of *Triticum repens*, the common couch grass, had pushed itself through.

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MAY 26.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Twenty-three members present.

Thos. Hockley, Wm. A. Stokes, John Shallcross, Alfred G. Reed, M.D., Richard J. Dunlison, M.D., Louis A. Godey, and J. E. Kingsley were elected members.

On report of the Committee to which it had been referred, the following paper was ordered to be published.